



Austro-Hungarian
Orders, Medals and Decorations
Volume II: Pre-1848 Awards
Part IX, 1835-1848



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Introduction



Emperor Ferdinand I was born severely disabled in 1793. His father was Emperor Franz I of Austria and his mother was Marie Therese of Naples and Sicily. Ferdinand became King of Hungary and heir to the Austrian imperial throne in 1830. In 1831 he married Maria Anna of Sardinia. The rule of Ferdinand I commenced in 1835 and ended with his abdication in favor of his nephew Franz Joseph as a result of the revolt of the Austrian people in 1848. After his abdication he became the Duke of Reichstadt and lived out his life in Hradshchin castle in Prague. He died at 82 in 1875. What follows is a description of the wearable medals and decorations that were issued during his reign to reward military accomplishments and services rendered in support of the empire that were of a military nature.





Civil Merit Medal (Zivilverdienstmedaille)



Date Issued: 1835—1848

Reason Issued: For exceptional meritorious service by civilian officials and other citizens in support of the empire.

Classes or Types: Six

- Gold Civil Merit Medal, first class
- Gold Civil Merit Medal, second class
- Gold Civil Merit Medal, third class
- Silver Civil Merit Medal, first class
- Silver Civil Merit Medal, second class
- Silver Civil Merit Medal, third class

Interesting Facts:

- The grade of the award granted was to a large extent determined by the status of the Recipient
- There were some minor variations in the medals due to variations in the dies. Thus in some cases the obverse image of the emperor has smooth hair and in some his hair is more unkempt. Also in some cases the reverse features an oak leaf wreath and in some the wreath is composed of laurel leaves.

Hallmarks: These medals were hallmarked on the suspension ring but the specific marks are unknown

Design: A round medal with a raised rim and an attached ornamental eye at the top through which a suspension ring passes.

Obverse: A bust of Emperor Ferdinand I with close cropped curly hair and a laurel wreath at the temples facing to the viewers right. Around the bust is the inscription **FERDINANDVS. I.D.G. AVSTRIAE IMPERATOR**, translation: Ferdinand I with the Grace of God Emperor of Austria. Below the neck of the bust is the signature of the medalist I.D. BOEHM. F (the F is not part of the signature of the medalist but rather stands for fabrikat or in English fabricated)

Reverse: The reverse of the medal has a raised rim within which is an oak wreath which is open at the top and tied at the bottom with a bow. Above the open upper portion of the wreath is the word **MERITIS**. Within the wreath is a space for engraving the first and last name of the recipient





Civil Merit Medal (Zivilverdienstmedaille)



Weight:

- Gold Civil Merit Medal, first class = 24 Ducats (86.4 grams)
- Gold Civil Merit Medal, Second class = 12 Ducats (43.2 grams)
- Gold Civil Merit Medal, Third class = 8 Ducats (28.8 grams)
- Silver Civil Merit Medal, first class = 52.5 grams
- Silver Civil Merit Medal, Second class = 43.8 grams
- Silver Civil Merit Medal, Third class = 25 grams

Size:

- Gold Civil Merit Medal, first class = 48 mm
- Gold Civil Merit Medal, Second class = 39 mm
- Gold Civil Merit Medal, Third class = 33 mm
- Silver Civil Merit Medal, first class = 48 mm
- Silver Civil Merit Medal, Second class = 39 mm
- Silver Civil Merit Medal, Third class = 33 mm

Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Type of Material: Gold and Silver

Variations:

- Type I: As described
- Gold Medal III class Type II: as described except the inscription on the obverse is as follows: **FERDINANDVS. I.D.G. AVST. IMP. HVNG. BO. LO. VE.GAL. IL. R.A.A.** (Ferdinand I with the Grace of God Austrian Emperor, Hungary, Bohemia, Lombardy, Venice, Galicia Illyria, King, Archduke Austria). The medal also varies in size and weight being 24 mm in diameter and 2 Ducats (6.9 grams in weight)
- Silver Medal III class Type II: as described except the inscription on the obverse is as follows: **FERDINAND. DER. ERSTE. KEISER. VON. OES-TERREICH.** (Ferdinand I Emperor of Austria). Below the bust is inscribed J.D.B.F. (Joseph Daniel Boehm Fabricated). The medal also varies in size and weight being 30 mm in diameter and 24 grams in weight

Designer: Joseph Daniel Boehm

Manufacturer: Hauptmünzamt Wien (Imperial Mint Vienna)

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon:

- Gold Merit Medals, first class were awarded on gold double linked chains weighing 40 ducats (so called mailed chain)
- A strait 39-40 mm wide carmen-red ribbon (used only for the lower grades of the gold medals and the silver medals)

Attachments: A gold clasp with the word **MERITIS** on the left and a representation of the obverse of the medal in the center.

Miniature: Many variations known to exist





Tyrolean Homage Medal 1838
(Tiroler Huldigungsmedaille 1838)



Date Issued: August 12, 1838

Reason Issued: Awarded as a commemorative medal to the Tyrolean soldiers, and city officials who offered their homage to the emperor on August 12, 1838

Classes or Types: One

Interesting Facts:

- This was the first medal issued by Emperor Ferdinand I
- It was issued in the city of Innsbruck

Hallmarks: None known

Design: A round medal with a raised rim and a proportionally large attached ornamental eye at the top through which a suspension ring passes.

Obverse: A bust of Emperor Ferdinand I with close cropped curly hair and a laurel wreath at the temples facing to the viewers right. Around the bust is the inscription **FERDINAND KAISER VON OESTERREICH**, translation: Ferdinand Emperor of Austria. Below the neck of the bust is the signature of the medalist I.D. BOEHM. F (the F is not part of the signature of the medalist but rather stands for fabrikat or in English fabricated.)

Reverse: The reverse of the medal has a raised rim within which is a wreath composed of oak leaves which, forms a full circle within the edge of the medal. Within the wreath is a five line inscription which reads: **ANDENKEN AN DIE HULDIGUNG 12. AUGUST 1838**. Translation: A memento of the homage August 12, 1838

Weight: 21 grams without ring and 23 grams with ring

Size: 28-29 mm in diameter and 4.9 mm thick

Type of Material: Silver

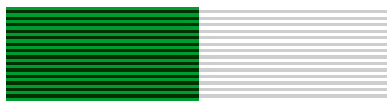
Variations:

- Type I: is as described above
- Type II: Has small changes in the design of the portrait of the emperor and the inscription on the reverse of the medal is slightly different. Also the suspension eye is slightly modified





Tyrolean Homage Medal 1838
(Tiroler Huldigungsmedaille 1838)



Designer: Joseph Daniel Boehm

Manufacturer: Hauptmunzamt Wien (Imperial Mint Vienna)

Number Issued: 180

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: A 38 mm wide ribbon worn in the strait or tri-fold fashion that is half dark green and half white

Attachments: None Known

Miniature: None known





Bravery Medal (Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Date Issued: 1839-1849

Reason Issued: The gold and silver medal (after 1848 Silver Medal, first class) were issued from 1839-1849 as a reward for officers in the armed forces who exhibited bravery in combat with an armed enemy. The Silver Medal Second class was issued from 1848-1849 to non-commissioned officers and enlisted personnel not only for bravery but also for exceptional courage and commitment in peace time. These medals were issued for the wars with Sardinia and the Hungarian Revolt. The second class was specifically intended to reward soldiers at or below the rank of Feldwebel or Wachtmeister.

Classes or Types: Two from 1839 to 1848 and three from August 19, 1848-1849

- Gold Bravery Medal (1839-1848)
- Silver Bravery Medal, first class 1839-August 12, 1848 (Silver Bravery Medal, first class from August 12, 1848-1849)
- Silver Bravery Medal, second class, August 19, 1848-1849

Interesting Facts:

- From 1839-1848 only officers were eligible to receive the Gold and Silver Medals
- From 1848-1849 only officers were eligible to receive the Gold Bravery Medal and the Silver Bravery Medal, first class and while enlisted personnel were eligible to receive the Silver Bravery Medal, second Class
- Recipients could not wear multiple awards but only the highest award received. Thus gold medal winners who had also won the silver medal were not allowed to wear the silver medal
- The silver medal, second class was referred to by Austrians as the soldiers Maria Theresia Order
- These medals were worn on straight ribbons until 1848 and after 1848 on tri-fold ribbons
- In 1848 Ferdinand I expanded the number of classes of the Bravery Medal by adding a small silver medal (Silver Bravery Medal, second class)
- On August 19, 1848 the Silver Bravery Medal was renamed the Silver Bravery Medal, first class to conform to the nomenclature of the smaller silver bravery medal which was designated the Silver Bravery Medal, second class.
- The Gold Medal and silver Medal issued from 1839-1849 were only given for service in the war with Sardinia and the Hungarian Revolt.
- From 1789 to 1918 there were 30 different versions of the bravery medal. This is versions 9, 10 and 11
 - Until 1916 with the issuance of the Karl Troop Cross this was in its various versions the most commonly issued decoration to the armed forces





Bravery Medal (Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Hallmarks: The Vienna Mint Mark = A on the Silver Medal, second class

Design: A round medal with a raised rim and a shovel shaped coined flat oval eye at the top through which the ribbon passed when it is worn on a straight ribbon and a clip passes when worn on a tri-fold ribbon.

Obverse: A bust of Emperor Ferdinand I facing to the right and looking older than in previous medals with close cropped curly hair and a victors laurel wreath tied at the bottom with a ribbon at the temples. Around the bust is the inscription **FERDINAND KAISER VON OESTERREICH**, translation: Ferdinand Emperor of Austria. Below the neck of the bust is the signature of the medalist (for the gold and silver medal and later the Silver Medal, first class I.D. Boehm. F. (The f in this signature block stands for fabricated) and K. Lange for the Silver Medal, second class

Reverse: The reverse of the medal has four crossed flags and two crossed standards at the bottom. The two front flags can be seen through the leaves of the laurel wreath and appear to have the Imperial Eagle on them, over which is superimposed a laurel wreath which is tied at the bottom with a bow. Within the wreath and above the flags are the words **DER TAPFERKEIT** (for bravery)

Weight:

- Gold Bravery Medal = 8 Ducats (28 grams)
- Silver Bravery Medal (Silver Bravery Medal, (first class) = 17 grams
- Silver Bravery Medal, second class = 17 grams

Size:

- Gold Bravery Medal = 40 mm in diameter
- Silver Bravery Medal (Silver Bravery Medal, first class = 40 mm in diameter
- Silver Bravery Medal, second class = 30 mm in diameter

Type of Material: 986/1000 Gold and Silver

Silver Bravery Medal First Class



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Bravery Medal (Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Silver Bravery Medal Second Class Type I

Variations:

- Gold Bravery Medal Type I: As described above
- Gold Bravery Medal Type II : As described above except that it has a wider base on the suspension ring
- Silver Bravery Medal (Silver Bravery Medal, first class) Type I: As described above
- Silver Bravery Medal (Silver Bravery Medal, first class) Type II: As described above except that it has a wider base on the suspension ring
- Silver Bravery Medal, second class Type I = On the obverse the letter E of the word LANGE is further from the end of the bust and the letter O of the word VON is above the laurel wreath.
- Silver Bravery Medal, second class Type II = On the obverse the letter E of the word LANGE is touching the bust, while the letter V of the word VON is found above the front of the laurel wreath.
- Silver Bravery Medal, second class Type III = On the obverse the letter E on this strike is further from the end of the bust and the letter V of the word VON is above the laurel leaf at the front of the wreath.
- Silver Bravery Medal, second class Type IV = as described except that it is suspended from a ring attached to the medal with a narrow 3 mm handle



**Silver Bravery Medal
second class, Type III**





Bravery Medal (Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Silver Bravery Medal Type I



Silver Bravery Medal Type II

Designer:

- Gold Bravery Medal = Josef Daniel Boehm
- Silver Bravery Medal (Silver Bravery Medal first class) = Joseph Daniel Boehm
- Silver Bravery Medal Second Class = Konrad Lange

Manufacturer: Hauptmunzamt Wien (Imperial Mint Vienna)

Number Issued: Between 1848 and 1849 there were two bravery medals issued one of which was the Silver Bravery medal second class

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: A strait or tri-fold 40 mm wide, originally dark-rose and white laddered ribbon, with 20 mm wide dark-rose center stripes and 5 mm wide side strips and equally wide white margins, later however with ribbon was Ponceau (Poppy) red with the same measurements as previously described for the dark-Rose red ribbon.

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Commemoration Medal for the First Imperial Free shoot in Bregenz
(Erinnerungsmedaille für das kaiserliche Freischiessen in Bregenz)



Date Issued: 1847

Reason Issued: Awarded as a commemorative medal to the volunteers from Bregenz who supported the emperor

Classes or Types: One

Interesting Facts:

Hallmarks: None known

Design: A round medal with a raised rim and a large attached loop eye at the top through which a suspension ring passes.

Obverse: A bust of Emperor Ferdinand I with close cropped curly hair and a laurel wreath at the temples facing to the right. Around the bust is the inscription **FERDINAND I. KAISER VON OESTERREICH &c.** &c. &c translation: Ferdinand I. Emperor of Austria and etc. and etc. and etc.

Reverse: The reverse of the medal has a raised rim within which is a wreath composed of oak leaves which, forms a full circle within the edge of the medal. Within the wreath is a three line inscription which reads: **IN/ BREGENZ/1847.** Translation: In Bregenz 1847

Weight: Unknown

Size: 33 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Silver

Variations: None known

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: Unknown

Attachments: None Known

Miniature: None known

